

Message Text

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43

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FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6873

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: NIGER FOOD GRAIN SITUATION-AF DROUGHT

REF: A) STATE 249395 B) NIAMEY 3562; C) NIAMEY 3627

D) NIAMEY 3373

SUMMARY. WE NOTE PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS APPRECIATION REGISTERED HERE BY PRESIDENT DIORI AND HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FOR RECENTLY ANNOUNCED 45,000 MT SORGHUM DONATION. WE ALSO NOTE THAT A RECAP OF PLEDGES BY DONORS CONFIRMS REQUIREMENT FOR TOTAL US HELP OF ORDER 100,000 TONES SORGHUM TO MEET GLOBAL DEFICIT IN GRAINS THIS YEAR, ESTIMATED AT OVER 220,000 TONS. PRESENTLY A 22,000 TON CARRYOVER FROM US TITLE II AUTHORIZATION IN FY 73, PLUS THE RECRNT 45,000 TONS AUTHORIZATION, LEAVES A NET REQUIREMENT FOR US HELP OF AROUND 35,000 TONS. WE UNDERSTAND A FURTHER 100,000 TONS OF SORGHUM IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR SIX SAHELIAN COUNTRIES. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT IN SUCH FURTHER ALLOCATION, 35,000 TONS BE EARMARKED FOR NIGER. WE APPRECIATE EFFORTS MADE BY AID/W TO EXPEDITE DELIVERIES OF 14,000 TONS OF 45,000 TON ALLOCATION IN JAN/FEB, AND URGE THAT BALANCE OF 31,000 TONS BE SHIPPED FOR DELIVERY IN MARCH (20,000 TONS) AND APRIL (11,000 TONS). END SUMMARY.

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1. PRESIDENT DIORI WAS DELIGHTED WITH USG DECISION ALLOCATE AN ADDITIONAL 45,000 TONS SORGHUM AND HE ORDERED NEWS OF DONATION HEADLINED IN LOCAL NEWSPAPER AND ON RADIO. HE WAS PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL SINCE THIS WAS THE FIRST CONCRETE ACTION BY ANY DONOR IN RESPONSE TO GON'S REQUEST FOR CURRENT FOOD YEAR. EFFORTS TO ACCELERATE SHIPPING SCHEDULE OF THESE DONATIONS ALSO WARMLY APPRECIATED BY GON.

2. REFERENCE B UPDATED THE GON FOOD GRAIN SITUATION; IT NOVED THE URGENCY YF EXPEDITING US DELIVERIES, AND ALSO CONCLUDED THAT THE UN MULTIDONOR ASSESSMENT OF REQUIREMENTS FOR OCTOBER-SEPTEMBER 73/74 OF 220,000 TONS WAS STANDING UP. IT FURTHER CONCLUDED THAT THE AMOUNT OF 110,000 TONS OF GRAIN (100,000 TONS SORGHUM AND 10,000 TONS CORN) WHICH THE GON HAD REQUESTED OF THE US, APPEARED TO BE JUSTIFIED IN LIGHT OF THE OVER-ALL FOOD GRAIN SITUATION.

3. IN CONSIDERING AMOUNTS REQUIRED FOR THE CURRENT FOOD YEAR, WE HAVE FELT, AND SO INDICATED TO THE GOVERNMENT, THAT 22,000 TONS OF GRAIN, ARRIVING IN COUNTRY SINCE OCTOBER, SHOULD BE COUNTED AGAINST THIS YEAR'S DELIVERIES. THUS 22,000 TONS PLUS 45,000 TON ALLOCATION BRINGS TOTAL SORGHUM IN SIGHT TO 67,000 TONS. ON BASIS OF RECENT UPDATE OF DONORS' FOOD PLEDGES, WE CONSIDER THAT REQUEST FROM US OF 100,000 TONS SORGHUM IS JUSTIFIED. ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT A SECOND TRANCHE OF 100,000 MT OF CEREAL GRAINS FOR THE SAHEL IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE US PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL 35,000 TONS OF SORGHUM TO NIGER.

4. GON HAS BEEN PUTTING MORE PRESSURE ON OTHER DONORS FOR FIRM AND PROMPT RESPONSES TO ITS REQUESTS OF LAST FALL. AT THE PRESENT, PLEDGES ARE STILL INCOMPLETE. OUR RUNDOWN OF PRESENT DONOR PLEDGES OF FOOD DELIVERIES FOR THIS CONSUMPTION YEAR, HOWEVER, INDICATES FOLLOWING:

DONOR	FOOD GRAINS PLEDGED		EXPECTED TOTAL PLEDGES	
	REQUESTED IN MTONS	TO DATE	CARRYOVER FROM 73	TO DATE AND CARRYOVER
USAID	110	45	22	67
FED	33	24.7	2.5	27.2

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WFP	15	-	-	NA
CANADA	22	-	2.5	2.5
W.GERMANY	15	7.4	.15	7.5
FRANCE	10	10	5	15
ITALY	4	-	-	-
RUSSIA	3	3	-	3
BELGIUM	2.5	-	-	-
AUSTRIA	2	-	-	-

BELGIUM (WORLD

FOOD AID)	2.5	-	-	-
PRC	-	-	1.7	1.7
FAO	2.5	-	-	-
UNICER	3.5	2	-	2

TOTAL	225	92.1	33.8	125.9

LOCAL CIDA REPRESENTATIVE ADVISES HIS GOVERNMENT HAS HAD GON REQUEST UNDER REVIEW FOR SOME TIME BUT HAS NOT YET REACHED A DECISION (LAST YEAR CANADA PROVIDED ABOUT 3,000 TONS OF WHEAT FLOUR AND SEMOLINA). IF IT IS ASSUMED THAT CANADA AND THE WFP PROVIDE AMOUNTS REQUESTED (37,000 TONS), THAT FRG INCREASES ITS PLEDGE BY 8,000 TONS AND THAT SMALL DONOR NATIONS COME UT WITH AS MUCH AS 10,000 TONS, THE TOTAL PLEDGED PLUS 73 CARRYOVER WILL EQUAL ABOUT 180,000 TONS OF GRAINS. AS POINTED OUT IN NIAMEY 3562, VIRTUALLY THE ONLY SOURCE FOR SORGHUM IS THE US. FOR THESE REASONS, EMBASSY AND ADO CONCLUDE THAT A FURHTER ALLOTMENT OF 35,000 TONS OF SORGHUM UNDER FY 74 TITLE II AUTHORIZATIONS IS NEEDED AND FULLY JUSTIFIABLE.

5. BASED ON REF A, IT IS EXPECTED THAT OF THE 67,000 TONS OF US GRAIN ALREADY AUTHORIZED:

- 15,000 TONS HAS ALREADY REACHED NIGER,
- 7,000 TONS IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN JANUARY,
- 14,000 TONS IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN FEBRUARY.

WE RECOMMEND THAT THE BALANCE OF 31,000 TONS BE SCHEDULED FOR ARRIVAL IN COUNTRY AS FOLLOWS:

- A. 20,000 TONS IN MARCH.
- B. 11,000 TONS IN APRIL.

WE WILL ADVISE OPVN RECOMMENDATIONS RE POINT OF ENTRY (VIA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COTONOU FOR THE WEST AND APAPA/PORT HARCOURT FOR THE EAST).

6. WITH RESPECT TO THE FINAL ALLOCATION OF 35,000 TONS RECOMMENDED HEREIN, WE WOULD SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE FOR IN COUNTRY DELIVERY:

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Message Attributes

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